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disease. However obscure may be the cause of its introduction, it appears to be well established that rats are effective vehicles of contamination, and a war of extermination has been declared against them. Now rats swarm everywhere—especially where grain is stored—and if there is no direct evidence that plague germs can be imported in grain bags, there is no doubt whatever that grain bags attract rats in myriads, and common sense dictates that the latter should be attacked at the point most favorable to their destruction, viz, in the grain warehouses. Now there is nothing like the mongoose, or munguz, for the extermination of these vermin; a dozen pair of mongooses turned down in the docks would clear them out in an incredibly short time, and I imagine that there are enough rats in Port Louis to last for some time. After that planters might be glad to turn some down in the cane fields, and would save many thousands of rupees every year.

There are drawbacks about the animal, which will be found well described in a letter reprinted from the *Field*, in the *Revue Agricole*, No. 9, vol. 9, in September, 1895.

There need be no difficulty in keeping down their numbers if they multiply too prolifically, but, in the face of a common danger, incidental sufferings must be borne in common, and if ground game and partridges become rare our sportsmen will have the satisfaction of knowing that the colony flourishes at the expense of a few days loss to them of rather second-rate shooting, and many get some small compensation besides in an occasional snap shot at a stray pig, as recommended by the authorities. After all the mongoose may confine his attention to town rats, and I suggest that the sanitary authorities telegraph to India for a consignment of a dozen couple by the next British India boat.

Your obedient servant,

COLONIA.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

BERMUDA.—Week ended March 17, 1899. Estimated population, 15,013. One death. No contagious diseases.

Week ended March 31, 1899. One death. No contagious diseases.

BRAZIL—*Para*.—Month of December, 1898. Estimated population, 50,000. Total number of deaths, 124. No contagious diseases reported.

Month of January, 1899. Total number of deaths, 218. No contagious diseases reported.

Month of February. Total number of deaths, 210. No contagious diseases reported.

BRITISH HONDURAS—*Belize*.—Month of February, 1899. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 93, including 3 from whooping cough.

CANADA—*Winnipeg, Manitoba*.—Month of March, 1899. Estimated population, 49,000. Total number of deaths not reported. One death from diphtheria and 2 from phthisis pulmonalis.

ITALY—*Florence*.—Month of January, 1899. Estimated population, 199,080. Total number of deaths, 415, including diphtheria, 2; enteric fever, 4; scarlet fever, 2; whooping cough, 2, and 35 from phthisis pulmonalis.

JAMAICA.—Two weeks ended March 18, 1899. Estimated population, 694,866. Number of deaths not reported. No contagious diseases reported. The health of the port is good.

JAVA—*Batavia*.—Month of January, 1899. Estimated population, 150,000. Number of deaths not reported. No contagious diseases reported.

MALTA.—Two weeks ended January 31, 1899. Estimated population, 180,328. Total number of deaths, 209, including diphtheria 1, and 4 from phthisis pulmonalis. Four cases of interic fever in army and fleet.

NICARAGUA—*San Juan*.—Month of March, 1899. Estimated population, 1,156. Total number of deaths, 7. No contagious diseases.